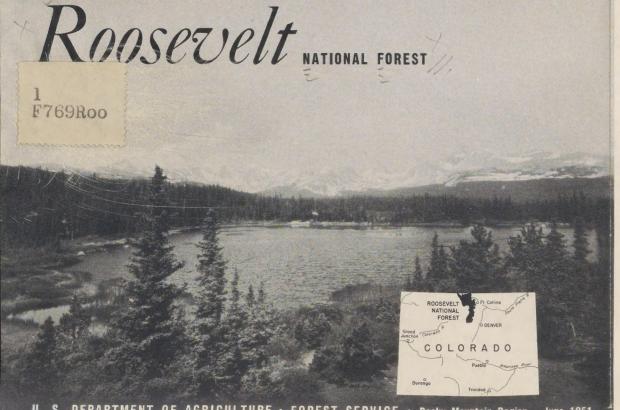
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE . FOREST SERVICE . Rocky Mountain Region . June 1951

What Is The Roosevelt National Forest?

Roosevelt National Forest, comprised of more than 790,000 acres, is one of 152 national forests administered for the public by the Forest Service. The Roosevelt, like all of the other national forests, is a source of timber for buildings and hundreds of other wood products, water for use in homes and by farms and industry, and forage for livestock. It also furnishes a home for many kinds of wildlife as well as a great variety of recreation for visitors. Thus, our national forests contribute to the economic and social structure of the regions in which they are located, and so to the Nation as a whole. It is our goal to protect and develop these forests so that their valuable resources will always be of maximum benefit to everyone.

Roosevelt National Forest is one of the most important Rocky Mountain forests from the standpoint of water. It supplies water for irrigation, domestic use, power, and industry. Because of the thousands of people who depend on this supply, care of the watersheds is of top importance.

There are 14 large reservoirs and 51 smaller ones on the forest. Just outside its boundaries, but fed by its water, are 77 more reservoirs. The water in these is used for city supplies, irrigation, power and irrigation combined, and recreation. It comprises 90 percent of the total domestic supply for 55,000 people in 5 cities; 60 percent of the supply for 12,500 people in 20 towns; and 100 percent of the supply for 48,000 more people in permanent rural or summer residence. This means that a total of 25.8 million gallons of water per day is needed for home use alone.

Crops produced on land irrigated by water from this forest are valued at from 10 to 15 million dollars per year. Weld, Larimer, and Boulder Counties, three of the richest agricultural counties in Colorado, all get their water for irrigation from streams draining the Roosevelt. And there is much land in Wyoming that receives its very necessary irrigation water from this forest.

Thus it is apparent that the watersheds of the Roosevelt are of incalculable value. If the watersheds are to function properly, a protective cover of natural vegetation plus a deep layer of humus or decaying vegetation must be kept on the slopes. Such a cover allows water to be absorbed and discharged slowly into streams. If this cover is destroyed by fire or misuse, water

will run off rapidly and carry soil with it. As the topsoil is washed away, the land becomes less able to grow a new mantle and the conversion of rain to runoff is speeded up. Streams fed by such a watershed will have a reduced flow of no longer clear water, and at peak flow there will be floods. For these reasons the watersheds must be protected and well managed.

TIMBER AND FORAGE

The stand of merchantable timber on the Roosevelt is estimated at more than 11/2 billion board feet, and there is another ½ billion board feet in saw-timber size stands in areas that are at present inaccessible. Of the merchantable timber, 63 percent is lodgepole pine; 17 percent Engelmann spruce; 10 percent ponderosa pine; 6 percent alpine fir; and 4 percent Douglas-fir and limber pine. The average annual cut from this forest is approximately 9 million board feet.

Logging on national forests is conducted by private industry. The Forest Service estimates the timber to be sold and determines a minimum value for it. The timber is then advertised and sold under contract to the highest bidder. Logging operations are carried on under the supervision of forest rangers who see that only trees marked for removal are cut, that young growth is not damaged needlessly, and that brush resulting from the cutting is properly disposed of. The forest benefits, since only mature, overmature, and diseased trees are removed. Young trees are thus given a chance to replace the veterans of the forest and provide future crops of wood.

All money from timber sales, grazing permits, and other forest uses is paid into the national treasury. Twenty-five percent of these proceeds is returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest lies, to be used for public schools and roads. An additional ten percent is available to the Forest Service for construction and maintenance of roads and trails.

Forage is one of the valuable resources of our national forests. Permits are issued to livestock owners for the use of the range, and established permittees have preference in continued use of it. A fee is charged for the permits, based on the length of the grazing season; this fee is adjusted

annually in relation to the past year's market prices for cattle and sheep. Most of the Roosevelt is heavily timbered and too rough and steep for grazing. Because of

this, and also because of the very high value of the watershed, the number of animals grazing the

Roosevelt is small. Excessive removal of herbage and trampling result in loss of water absorption, uneven stream flow, increased flood peaks, and soil erosion. Therefore, grazing is regulated by establishing periods of use and by limiting the number of animals grazed to the capacity of the range. Such regulation insures the permanent welfare of the livestock industry.

WILDLIFE

Most of the 712 miles of streams and 2,200 acres of lakes, particularly those back from the highways, afford good fishing. Mule deer are abundant, and about 7,000 sportsmen visit the Roosevelt each fall to hunt them. In addition to 12,000 deer, forest populations of elk are estimated at 1,200, bear at 300, and mountain sheep at 150. Small game and fur bearers are common. In cooperation with the Colorado Game and Fish Commission, the wildlife is managed for continuous enjoyment of all who seek this form of recreation.

MINERAL WEALTH

According to records of the United States Bureau of Mines, the total value of minerals produced in Boulder County from 1859 to 1948 was more than 331/2 million dollars. This total was contributed to by gold, 74 percent; silver, 24 percent; and lead, copper, and zinc, 2 percent.

The mineral resources within national forests are open to development just as they are on unreserved public lands. A prospector may stake his claim and obtain timber for its development. While the Forest Service guards against dishonest or fraudulent claims, it assists the bona fide mining man in every way possible.

RECREATION

Campers, fishermen, hunters, and those who seek other outdoor recreation, health, or rest, find great pleasure in the natural environment of the forest. An annual average of over 120,000 visits for these purposes have been made to the Roosevelt over the past 3 years: For example, about 4,000 for camping; 35,000 for picnicking; 7,500 for hunting; 46,000 for fishing, etc. In addition, there has been an annual average of about 14,500 visits for general enjoyment and sightseeing on the forest. The winter sports area at Rock Creek, near Allen's Park, is becoming more



Forest-clothed watersheds insure a steady flow of water. Water for irrigation and domestic use is the key to the economy of the West.



Whether a picnic in pleasant shade, a trip into the wild, fishing or hunting, the recreationist can choose because the forest has all of these to offer and more.

popular each year. During the 1950-51 season, over 7,800 visits were made here, 5,000 of them for skiing alone.

The Figure Eight Trail offers the pleasure of horse and foot travel to those who enjoy that sort of recreation. This trail affords passage to the western slopes over Buchanan Pass on the north, Pawnee Pass in the center, and Arapaho Pass at the south end of the system. Interesting circle trips can be made from Peaceful Valley, Brainard and Stapp Lakes, Nederland and Eldora, to Monarch and other lakes in the Arapaho forest. Big South Trail extends from the Poudre Highway, at the junction of the Big South Fork and Main Fork of the Cache La Poudre, to points in the Rocky Mountain National Park. Numerous other trails afford interesting trips.

Camp and Picnic Grounds

Twenty-nine attractive and conveniently located camp and picnic sites are maintained by the Forest Service for the comfort and pleasure of visitors to the Roosevelt. Each camp and picnic area has toilet and garbage-disposal facilities and is made up of several units. One camp unit includes a fire grate, table, tent space, and parking space. One picnic unit also includes a fire grate and table, but there is central car parking for the area. 1. Ansel Watrous.—On State 14, 23 miles west of Fort Collins. Camping, picnicking,

Base Line.—Six miles northwest of Eldora on North Fork of Middle Boulder Creek. Passable road. Camping, picnicking, fishing; horseback trails, hiking. Trails to Lake Dorothy, Arapaho Pass, Diamond Lake, Jasper Lake. Base camp for trip to Arapaho Glacier.

Bellaire. Forty-eight miles northwest of Fort Collins, about 1/2 mile off Manhattan road, 4 miles south of Red Feather Lakes. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting. Elevation 8,600 ft.
4. Bennett Creek.—South of State 14, 37 miles west of Fort Collins and 4 miles south of Cache La Poudre River on Forest Service road. Camping, picnicking, hiking, wildlife; scenery of Continental Divide and Mummy Range.

5. Big South.—On State 14, 60 miles west of Fort Collins. Camping, picnicking, fishing, wildlife; 9 miles of scenic trail up Big South Cache La Poudre River.

6. Brainard Lake.—On Brainard Lake forest road, 5 miles west of Ward. Camping, picnicking, fishing; trails to Isabelle Glacier, alpine lakes, Continental Divide.

7. Browns Park.—About 1 mile south of old Glendevey, just off forest road on Jinks Creek. Partly developed. Camping, picnicking, hunting; hiking into scenic Medicine Bow Range. 8. Chambers Lake.—On State 14, 65 miles west of Fort Collins. Camping, picnicking, fishing; scenic trail to timber line on Clarks and Cameron Peaks; wild game

9. Creedmore Lake.—About 9 miles north of Red Feather Lakes P. O. Unimproved road. Camp partly improved; picnicking fishing, hunting, hiking; off beaten path. 10. Diamond Rock.—On State 14 along Poudre River, 22 miles west of Fort Collins. Camp-

ing, picnicking, fishing, hiking. 11. Dowdy Lake.—Forty-five miles northwest of Fort Collins, 1 mile off Livermore-Red

Feather Lakes road; 2 miles east of Red Feather Lakes. Picnicking, fishing, hunting. 12. Fish Creek.—West on State 14, 37 miles from Fort Collins and south 8 miles from Cache La Poudre River on forest road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking; scenery of Mummy Range, Continental Divide, South Fork Cache La Poudre River. West White Pine Mountain fire lookout 10 miles by road and then 3 miles by trail from area.

13. Fort Collins Mountain Recreation Area.—Along Cache La Poudre River 34 miles west of Fort Collins on State 14. Stone shelter and council ring for community gatherings. Camping, picnicking, fishing, nature trails, playfield, wildlife.

14. Hooligan Roost.—One mile west of Old Glendevey and 83 miles from Fort Collins. On McIntyre Creek. Camping picnicking, fishing, hunting; trails into Medicine Bow Range. 15. McIntyre Lakes.—About 75 miles from Fort Collins to mouth of Rawah Creek on Upper Laramie River, then 11 miles by trail southwest and about 1 mile beyond Rawah Lakes camp ground. Within Rawah Wild Area; alpine lakes. Camping, fishing, wildlife, hiking. 16. Middle St. Vrain.—On State 160, 1 mile southwest of Peaceful Valley. Picnicking, fish-

ing, wildlife. Scenic trail to St. Vrain Glaciers. 17. Mount Meeker.—On State 7, 12 miles south of Estes Park. Camping, picnicking, scenic trails, wildlife. Trails leading to summit of Longs Peak and to Twin Sisters Lookout nearby. 18. Narrows.—On State 14, 30 miles west of Fort Collins. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, wildlife; scenic Big Narrows of Poudre River.

19. North Poudre.—Fifty-two miles northwest of Fort Collins and 7 miles west of Red Feather-Deadman forest road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting; scenic trails to Panhandle and North and South Bald Mountains.

20. Rainbow Lakes.—Eight miles north of Nederland on State 160 then 5 miles southwest on Arapaho Glacier road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting; scenic trails, Arapaho Glacier, Arapaho Pass, alpine lakes.

21. Rawah Lakes.—Two back-country camp grounds within Rawah Wild Area; 10 miles by trail from mouth of Rawah Creek, 1 mile south of Glendevey P. O., on Laramie River, which, in turn, is 75 miles by State highway from Fort Collins. Camping, fishing, hiking, wildlife. 22. Rist Canyon.—14 miles west of Fort Collins via Bellvue in Rist Canyon, on forest road.

23. Skyline.—On Laramie River road 4 miles north of State 14 in picturesque upper Laramie River basin. About 68 miles from Fort Collins, Colo., and Laramie, Wyo. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting; scenic trails.

24. Sleeping Elephant.—On State 14, 55 miles west of Fort Collins. Camping, picnicking, fishing, wildlife; scenic Cache La Poudre Canyon.

25. South St. Vrain.—On State 7, 4 miles southwest of Lyons. Picnic facilities at lower end of scenic St. Vrain Canyon.

26. Tom Bennett.—Thirty-seven miles west of Fort Collins on State 14 and south 16 miles from Poudre River on Forest Service road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking. Trails to Mummy Range, timber line and above; numerous timber-line lakes. White Pine fire lookout 10 miles by road and 3 miles by trail from area. Wildlife.

27. Tunnel.—North 2 miles from Skyline Camp Ground on Laramie River road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting. At east entrance to Rawah Wild Area; rugged mountain peaks. 28. Upper and Lower North Fork.—On North Fork of Thompson road 3 miles east of Glen Haven. Picnicking, fishing, wildlife. Dunraven Trail is the most popular one from Glen Haven; leads to Deserted Village and to Lost Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park.

29. West Lake.-Northwest of Fort Collins 44 miles, just off Livermore-Red Feather Lakes road. Camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting; mountain scenery. Elevation 8,300 ft.

Forage for cattle on well-managed forest meadows helps to make a stable livestock industry.



Out of the forest comes timber, and out of the timber wood for homes and industry, jobs for men.

THE RAWAH WILD AREA

One of the most beautiful parts of the forest, located along the summit of the Medicine Bow Range, has been designated as the Rawah Wild Area. It comprises 25,720 acres of a glaciated country that abounds in rugged peaks, alpine lakes, and rushing streams. The primitive condition of this area is preserved for mankind with only such roads and trails or other facilities as are necessary to protect it from fire. Here one has the opportunity to really rough it. The country between Rawah and Clarks Peaks is particularly difficult to travel and great skill in mountain climbing is necessary to scale the high points.

THE GLACIER REGION

The St. Vrain, Isabelle, and Arapaho Glaciers, within the Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forests, are the most important of a group of ancient glaciers found along the Continental Divide. These ice fields were first discovered in the early part of the present century. Because of their geological importance and the scenic beauty of the country, they are worth the effort of the climb that is necessary to reach them.

THE MOFFAT AND ADAMS TUNNELS

The Moffat Tunnel passes through the Continental Divide, under James Peak, which is 13,260 feet in elevation. Its east portal is in the Roosevelt National Forest and its west portal is in the Arapaho. It cost \$18,000,000 and is composed of two shafts—the pioneer or water tunnel, and the main railroad tunnel. The water tunnel is 8 feet high and 8 feet wide and carries water from the Fraser River and other tributaries of the Colorado on the west side of the Divide to the east side. This water is used for irrigation and for municipal purposes in Denver. The railroad tunnel is used by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, and it is 6.4 miles long.

The largest reclamation project ever undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation in Colorado is the Colorado-Big Thompson transmountain water diversion project. Key engineering feature of the project is the Alva B. Adams concrete-lined water tunnel, which is 9 feet 9 inches in diameter and 13.1 miles long. This project provides supplemental water for 615,000 acres of irrigated land in Boulder, Larimer, Weld and other nearby counties. The tunnel cost \$12,000,000.

FIRE PREVENTION

All of the large fire-scarred areas that you may see on the forest are the result of old fires that occurred years before any of the forests of the West were protected. During the past 40 years, since organized fire protection, 4,968 acres of land within the forest have been burned—an average annual loss of 124 acres. And for one 14-year period the loss did not exceed 10 acres annually. Most of these fires were caused by human carelessness.

When you are camping, fishing, hiking, riding, or in fact any time, anywhere, that you are using fire, be sure it is out before you leave. Remember that fire destroys all of the benefits that the forest has to offer—a protected watershed, timber, forage, wildlife, and recreation.

The foresters of the Roosevelt National Forest ask your help in preventing forest fires. Should you discover a forest fire, put it out if you can; if you cannot put it out, report it to the forest supervisor, a ranger, the sheriff, or the nearest telephone operator. The forest supervisor's office is at Fort Collins and ranger headquarters are at Glendevey, Red Feather Lakes, Fort Collins, Estes Park, and Boulder. Visitors are welcome at any of these offices.

RULES FOR PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES

1. Matches.—Be sure that your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away. 2. Tobacco.—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves or needles. Do not smoke while traveling through the woods.

3. Making Camp.—Before building a fire scrape away all flammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center of the spot and build your campfire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.

4. Breaking Camp.—Never break camp until your fire is out—DEAD OUT. 5. How to Put Out a Campfire.—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small

sticks and drench both sides. Wet ground around the fire. Be sure that the last spark is dead. 6. Brush Burning.—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that fire will get away.

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RULES FOR HEALTH PROTECTION

1. Purification.—Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water. 2. Garbage.—Burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans, and old clothes.

3. Excretions.—Bury a foot deep all human excretions, at least 200 feet from streams, lakes,

4. Washings.—Do not wash soiled clothing, utensils, or bodies in streams, lakes or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on the ground away from the water supply 5. Toilets.—Use public toilets where available. They are properly located. Toilets should

be at least 200 feet from streams and not in gulches. 6. Observe Laws.—Observe the rules and endeavor to have others do the same. National and State laws impose heavy penalties for health-law violations. Report all violations or unsani-

tary conditions (including dead animals) to the nearest health officer or Forest Service officer.

